



COMMISSION ON IMPROVING THE STATUS OF CHILDREN IN INDIANA

Annual Report

July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016

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Executive Summary

Legislation establishing the Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana (CISC) went into effect on July 1, 2013. This 18-member Commission consists of leadership from all three branches of state government. Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016, the CISC concentrated on the following areas as they relate to vulnerable youth: studying access to and availability of services; information sharing; promoting best practices, policies, and programs; obtaining information from agencies and experts; and studying and making recommendations regarding legislative assignments and pending legislation.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Reports

- Issued a final report as required by Legislative Council Resolution 14-01 regarding the under-reporting of crimes against children.
- Issued an interim report as required by Legislative Council Resolution 15-01 regarding teen suicide.
- Issued a report and recommendations as required by House Enrolled Act (HEA) 1016 regarding (1) New methods or mechanisms for carrying out policies relating to abandoned children, including the use of newborn safety incubators (as defined in IC 16-35-9-4); (2) The production and distribution of information concerning the laws regarding emergency custody of abandoned children under IC 31-34-2.5; and (3) The advisability of establishing and posting uniform signs regarding locations at which children may be voluntarily left with an emergency medical services provider under IC 31-34-2.5.

Endorsements and Resolutions

- Endorsed a proposal by the Indiana Department of Correction/Division of Youth Services (IDOC/DYS) to implement three new career certification programs at the Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility and to expand the existing career certification offerings at the Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility.
- Supported the Teen Suicide Prevention Report and Recommendations jointly prepared by the Infant Mortality and Child Health Task Force and the Substance Abuse and Child Safety Task Force.
- Issued a resolution in support of legislation to add a definition of a victim of human trafficking to I.C. 31 and adding human trafficking as a circumstance in which a child may be designated a child in need of services to I.C. 31-34.

- Endorsed a proposal by the Educational Outcomes Task Force to support the expansion of the Jobs for America’s Graduates (JAG) program.

Presentations

- Substance Abuse Crisis in Indiana: A Physician’s Perspective-*Dr. Timothy Kelly, Community Health Network*
- Underreporting of Crimes of Domestic Violence or Sexual Assault-*Representative Christina Hale; Dr. John Parrish-Sprowl*
- Infant Mortality and Child Health-*Art Logsdon, Indiana State Department of Health*
- Teen Suicide-*Senator Jean Breaux, District 34*
- Newborn Safety Incubators- *Representative Casey Cox, District 85*
- Governor’s Adoption Study Committee
- Governor’s Task Force on Drug Enforcement, Treatment and Prevention
- Casey Family Programs
- Child Services Oversight Committee
- Cross-System Youth Task Force
- Data Sharing and Mapping Task Force
- Educational Outcomes Task Force
- Infant Mortality and Child Health Task Force
- Substance Abuse and Child Safety Task Force
- Indiana Department of Child Services
- Senator Travis Holdman
- Indiana State Health Commissioner
- Indiana Department of Correction, Division of Youth Services
- Probation
- Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council
- Indiana Public Defender Council
- Representative Gail Riecken
- Indiana Attorney General
- Division of Mental Health and Addiction
- Indiana Supreme Court
- Family and Social Services Administration

Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana

Members

Dr. Jerome Adams, M.D.

Indiana State Health Commissioner

Brian Bailey

Director

Indiana State Budget Agency

Christine Blessinger

Executive Director

Indiana Department of Correction, Division
of Youth Services

Mary Beth Bonaventura

Director

Indiana Department of Child Services

Rep. David Frizzell

State Representative

District 93

Sen. Travis Holdman

State Senator

District 19

Sen. Tim Lanane

State Senator

District 22

Larry Landis

Executive Director

Indiana Public Defender Council

Susan Lightfoot

Chief Probation Officer

Henry County Probation Department

Danielle McGrath

Deputy Chief of Staff

Office of the Governor

Kevin Moore

Director

Division of Mental Health and Addiction

David Powell

Executive Director

Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council

Rep. Gail Riecken

State Representative

District 77

Glenda Ritz

Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction

Hon. Loretta Rush

Chief Justice of Indiana

Jane Seigel

Executive Director

Indiana Judicial Center/State Court
Administration

Dr. John Wernert, M.D.

Secretary

Family and Social Services Administration

Gregory Zoeller

Indiana Attorney General

ABOUT THE COMMISSION

Governor Pence signed Senate Enrolled Act 125-2013 into law on April 30, 2013. This legislation established the eighteen (18) member Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana (CISC) [IC 2-5-36].

MEMBERSHIP

- (1) One (1) legislative member appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.
- (2) One (1) legislative member appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives.
- (3) One (1) legislative member appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate.
- (4) One (1) legislative member appointed by the minority leader of the senate.
- (5) The superintendent of public instruction.
- (6) The director of the department of child services.
- (7) One (1) judge or justice with experience in juvenile law appointed by the chief justice of Indiana to serve on the commission for a period of four (4) years.
- (8) The executive director of the prosecuting attorneys council of Indiana.
- (9) The executive director of the public defender council of Indiana.
- (10) The secretary of family and social services.
- (11) The state health commissioner.
- (12) The director of the department of correction division of youth services.
- (13) One (1) representative of the juvenile probation system, appointed by the chief justice of Indiana for a period of four (4) years.
- (14) The director of the office of management and budget, or the director of the state budget agency, as selected by the governor.
- (15) A member of the governor's staff, to be appointed by the governor.
- (16) The executive director of the division of state court administration.
- (17) The director of the division of mental health and addiction.
- (18) The attorney general, who shall serve as a nonvoting member.

VULNERABLE YOUTH

For the purposes of the CISC, the law defines “vulnerable youth” as a child served by:

- (A) the department of child services;
- (B) the office of the secretary of family and social services;
- (C) the department of correction; or
- (D) a juvenile probation department.

CISC DUTIES¹

- (1) Study and evaluate the following:
 - (A) Access to services for vulnerable youth.
 - (B) Availability of services for vulnerable youth.
 - (C) Duplication of services for vulnerable youth.
 - (D) Funding of services available for vulnerable youth.
 - (E) Barriers to service for vulnerable youth.
 - (F) Communication and cooperation by agencies concerning vulnerable youth.
 - (G) Implementation of programs or laws concerning vulnerable youth.
 - (H) The consolidation of existing entities that serve vulnerable youth.
 - (I) Data from state agencies relevant to evaluating progress, targeting efforts, and demonstrating outcomes.
 - (J) Crimes of sexual violence against children.
 - (K) The impact of social networking web sites, cellular telephones and wireless communications devices, digital media, and new technology on crimes against children.
- (2) Review and make recommendations concerning pending legislation.
- (3) Promote information sharing concerning vulnerable youth across the state.
- (4) Promote best practices, policies, and programs.
- (5) Cooperate with:
 - (A) other child focused commissions;
 - (B) the judicial branch of government;
 - (C) the executive branch of government;
 - (D) stakeholders; and
 - (E) members of the community.
- (6) Submit a report not later than July 1 of each year regarding the commission's work during the previous year. The report shall be submitted to the legislative council, the governor, and the chief justice of Indiana.

The CISC may also:

- (1) Request information or a presentation from an agency involved with vulnerable youth.
- (2) Request and review outcome data from an agency related to vulnerable youth.
- (3) Receive information from experts concerning vulnerable youth.

¹Pursuant to HEA 1369-2016, not later than November 1, 2016, the commission shall: (1) study and evaluate innovative juvenile justice programs, including juvenile community corrections; and (2) consult with the justice reinvestment advisory council under IC 33-38-9.5 concerning how funds should be distributed for innovative juvenile justice programs and juvenile community corrections. The commission shall submit a report, not later than December 1, 2016, regarding the commission's work required under this subsection. The report shall be submitted to the legislative council, the governor, and the chief justice of Indiana. The report to the legislative council must be in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6. This subsection expires January 1, 2018.

MISSION AND VISION

Mission: To improve the status of children in Indiana.

Vision: Every child in Indiana will have a safe and nurturing environment and be afforded opportunities to grow into a healthy and productive adult.

PRIORITIES

- Increase availability of and access to quality mental health services for children
- Address foster care system reforms
- Improve healthcare access
- Improve educational outcomes
- Expand juvenile justice reform
- Increase substance abuse treatment and prevention services
- Improve data sharing, communication, and collaboration across agencies and systems serving children and youth
- Increase public awareness
- Address child fatalities

Organizational Model

The organizational model adopted by the CISC consists of a chairperson, an executive committee, commission members, and task forces. The Honorable Loretta Rush, Chief Justice of Indiana, is the current chair of the CISC.

Executive Committee

The five-member Executive Committee meets at least monthly. Members of the Executive Committee serve as a liaison on one or more task forces. The Executive Committee met on: June 29, August 4, September 22, October 21, November 10, December 12, 2015 and January 19, March 15, April 14, May 11 and June 14, 2016.

Executive Committee Members:

Mary Beth Bonaventura, Director, Indiana Department of Child Services

Rep. David Frizzell, State Representative, District 93

Sen. Travis Holdman, State Senator, District 19

Danielle McGrath, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor

Hon. Loretta Rush, Chief Justice of Indiana

Staff Support

Jane Seigel, Michael Commons, Matthew Hagenbush, Anne Jordan, Ruth Reichard and Angela Reid-Brown, Indiana Judicial Center/State Court Administration provide staff support for the CISC.

COMMISSION ON IMPROVING THE STATUS OF CHILDREN IN INDIANA

Chair
Loretta Rush, Chief Justice of Indiana

Executive Committee
Mary Beth Bonaventura, Director, DCS
Rep. David Frizzell
Sen. Travis Holdman
Danielle McGrath, Office of the Governor
Loretta Rush, Chief Justice of Indiana

Appointee: Speaker of the House David Frizzell	Appointee: House Minority Leader Gail Riecken	Appointee: President Pro Tempore of the Senate Travis Holdman	Appointee: Senate Minority Leader Tim Lanane	Superintendent of Public Instruction Glenda Ritz	Director of Department of Child Services Mary Beth Bonaventura
Judicial Appointee of Chief Justice Hon. Loretta Rush	Secretary of FSSA Dr. John Wernert	State Health Commissioner Dr. Jerome Adams	Director, DOC Division of Youth Services Christine Blessinger	Juvenile Probation Officer Appointee of Chief Justice Susan Lightfoot	Gubernatorial Appointee: Director of State Budget Agency Brian Bailey
Governor's Staff Member Danielle McGrath	Executive Director Indiana Judicial Center/State Court Administration Jane Seigel	Director of Division of Mental Health & Addiction Kevin Moore	Attorney General Greg Zoeller	Executive Director Prosecuting Attorneys Council David Powell	Executive Director Public Defender Council Larry Landis
Child Services Oversight Committee	Cross-System Youth Task Force	Data Sharing & Mapping Task Force	Educational Outcomes Task Force	Infant Mortality & Child Health Task Force	Substance Abuse & Child Safety Task Force

CISC Meetings

CISC meetings are webcast live on the website: <http://www.in.gov/children>. Meeting agendas, minutes, PowerPoint presentations, handouts, and other resources are posted on the website. All meetings are open to the public.

Meeting Highlights

August 19, 2015- [Meeting Materials](#)

The meeting included presentations on Substance Abuse Crisis in Indiana: A Physician's Perspective, a report from the Governor's Adoption Study Committee, a report on the Underreporting of Crimes of Domestic Violence or Sexual Assault, and a report on the Cross-System Youth Symposium held July 24, 2015.

November 18, 2015- [Meeting Materials](#)

The meeting included presentations on Teen Suicide, HEA 1016-Newborn Safety Incubators, Casey Family Program Partnership, Department of Child Services Proposed 2016 Legislation and a report on National Adoption Awareness Month Activities.

The CISC unanimously voted 1) not to endorse HEA 1016; 2) to support the promotion of the existing Safe Haven Law, and to continue dialogue on how to reduce infant mortality; and 3) to ask the Infant Mortality and Child Health Task Force to consider studying liability issues and immunity associated with the Safe Haven law in general. The CISC also voted to support adding human trafficking to the CHINS statute.

February 17, 2016- [Meeting Materials](#)

The meeting included reports from the five Task Force chairs to update the CISC on their work. The meeting also included presentations from CISC members, a report from the Governor's Task Force on Drug Enforcement, Treatment and Prevention, and a Legislative Update.

May 18, 2016- [Meeting Materials](#)

The meeting included reports from Casey Family Programs regarding a Task Force Retrospective report and Strategic Review and Analysis of the Final Report from the Adoption Study Committee, a review of historical CHINS data, and the National Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities Report. The Educational Outcomes Task Force presented a recommendation.

The CISC voted to accept the recommendation of the Educational Outcomes Task Force to support expansion of the Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) program.

Task Forces

The goals of each task force are to study, deliberate, and develop recommendations involving matters assigned by the CISC. Recommendations are used to help inform the work of the CISC.

Child Services Oversight Committee

Senator Carlin Yoder, Chair

Executive Committee Liaison-Mary Beth Bonaventura, Director, Department of Child Services

[Child Services Oversight Committee](http://www.in.gov/children/2359.htm)
<http://www.in.gov/children/2359.htm>

Priorities:

- To support the well-being of Hoosier children by strengthening the Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS).
- To increase transparency and open communication to support Hoosier children all across the state.

Members

Mary Beth Bonaventura, Indiana Department of Child Services; **Leslie Dunn**, Indiana Judicial Center/State Court Administration; **Sean McCrindle**, Bashor Children's Home; **Suzanna O'Malley**, Prosecuting Attorney Council; **Representative Gail Riecken**, District 77; **Jolene Bracale**, Indiana Department of Education; **Larry Landis**, Indiana Public Defender Council; **Hon. Stephen Galvin**, Monroe County Circuit Court.

Meetings

The Committee met on June 9 and October 8, 2015 and April 12, 2016.

Accomplishments of Past Year

The Committee received presentations from the following:

- DCS-Collaborative Care, Deloitte Workload Analysis Report and Recommendations, Agency Updates, foster care update and recruitment efforts, DCS media outreach
- Indiana State office of GAL/CASA
- Indiana Association of Resources and Child Advocacy (IARCA)
- Half Way Home

Current Action Plan

The continued pursuit of strengthening Hoosier children through transparency and quick response to child abuse reports.

Anticipated Next Steps

During the next fiscal year, the Committee plans on reviewing the following topics:

1. Changing the role of probation consultants from approving placements to 1) resource consultants, 2) JDAI assistance, and 3) educational purposes.
2. Reviewing whether “status offenders” should be removed from the Delinquency Code and moved to the CHINS Code.

Cross-System Youth Task Force

Hon. Charles Pratt, *Co-chair*, Allen Superior Court

Don Travis, *Co-chair*, Deputy Director Juvenile Justice Initiatives and Support,
Indiana Department of Child Services

Executive Committee Liaison – Hon. Loretta Rush, Chief Justice of Indiana

[Cross-System Youth Task Force Webpage](#)

<http://www.in.gov/children/2345.htm>

Priorities

- Identify barriers in statute, regulation, or practice to addressing (a) cross system youth issues and (b) dual jurisdiction issues;
- Complete a policy analysis designed to increase cooperation between systems through recommendation of new practices including recommendations for system/law or regulatory reform;
- Addressing efficiency in meeting a child’s needs;
- Identify areas and recommend the incorporation of restorative justice practices where appropriate;
- Identify areas of service provisions and recommend the incorporation of family engagement practices including Family Group Decision Making practices where appropriate;
- Develop, monitor and report on Dual Jurisdiction pilot projects;
- Continue to expand JDAI and initiatives regarding disproportionate minority contact;
- Increase alternatives to detention for youth with mental health issues;
- Improve transitions for youth from DOC and DCS to other agencies (BDDS, DMHA, etc.) and to their communities, including re-entry to school;
- Improve coordination between probation, mental health, DCS, and DOC on dually adjudicated youth;
- Increase coordination regarding education among DOE, DCS, probation, and school districts for dually adjudicated youth; and
- Develop policies and procedures to meet the needs of dually adjudicated youth.

In addition, the subcommittees were asked to identify mental health and homelessness issues that have an effect on youth that cross through multiple systems, yet may remain transparent to any one system.

Members

Jeffrey Bercovitz, Indiana Judicial Center/State Court Administration; **Christine Blessinger**, Indiana Department of Correction, Division of Youth Services; **Rebecca Buhner**, Family and Social Services Administration, Division of Mental Health and Addiction; **Bruce Carter**, MSD of Wayne Township; **Mary DePrez**, Indiana Supreme Court, Office of Judicial Administration; **Suzanne Draper**, Vanderburgh County CASA; **Hon. Steve Galvin**, Monroe Circuit Court, Div. 7; **James (Mike) Goodwin**, Indiana Department of Child Services, Sullivan County; **Cathleen Graham**, Indiana Association of Resources and Child Advocacy (IARCA); **Nichole Hall**, Bartholomew County Court Services; **JauNae Hanger**, Waples & Hanger; **Hon. Heather Mollo, Ex Officio**, Bartholomew Circuit Court; **Kathleen Rusher**, Allen County Probation Department; **Daniel C. Schroeder, Esq.**, Marion County Public Defender Agency, Juvenile Division; and **Michelle Woodward**, Lawrence County Prosecutor.

Meetings

The Task Force met on June 30, September 1 and December 18, 2015 and February 3 and May 11, 2016.

Accomplishments of Past Year

Cross-System Youth Symposium-July 24, 2015. Forty-two county teams represented by a judicial officer, law enforcement or probation, DCS, local schools and local mental health attended the symposium.

Current Action Plan

1. The Task Force will begin communicating with the county teams on the analytical results of the Symposium and the next steps.
2. The Task Force will monitor and support implementation of the dual status youth legislation passed in 2015 (HEA 1196-2015).
3. The Task Force will work to build bridges with the Substance Abuse Task Force regarding the findings of the Cross-System Youth Task Force subcommittee on substance abuse and to support the position that Local Coordinating Committees need more support and resources to combat substance abuse.
4. The Task Force will build bridges with the Educational Outcomes Task Force regarding students and substance abuse issues and evaluate the Life-Line Law as it applies to high school students.

5. The Task Force will facilitate discussions with the Indiana Judicial Center regarding juvenile and family drug courts.

Timeline for Achieving Stated Goals

- Symposium follow-up- September 2016
- Building bridges to Substance Abuse Task Force- July 2016
- Communication with Indiana Judicial Center- Problem Solving Courts- July 2016
- Building Bridges to Education Task Force- July 2016
- Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT)- November 2016
- Study and Evaluation of Innovation Juvenile Justice Program including juvenile community correction- as directed by the Commission

Recommendations for the Commission

1. Consider having a presentation on Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) at a future CISC meeting.
2. Consider allowing the Task Force to have input into the study and evaluation of innovative juvenile justice programs, including juvenile community corrections pursuant to HEA 1369-2016 and to work collaboratively with any organization that may be assigned this task.

Data Sharing and Mapping Task Force

Lilia Judson, Co-Chair, Interim Executive Director, Indiana Supreme Court, Office of Judicial Administration

Julie Whitman, Co-Chair, Vice President, Programs, Indiana Youth Institute
Executive Committee Liaison-Hon. Loretta Rush, Chief Justice of Indiana

[Data Sharing and Mapping Task Force Webpage](http://www.in.gov/children/2344.htm)
<http://www.in.gov/children/2344.htm>

Priorities (cross-system priorities are *italicized*)

- Identify gaps in the array of mental health services, especially in rural areas;
- Identify gaps in the array of substance abuse services, especially in rural areas;
- Address geographic disparities for treatment resources;
- *Implement technology initiatives to improve data collection and create capacity for sharing data for all systems serving children;*
- *Develop a repository linking all relevant data relating to children in multiple systems—for transparency and accountability; and*
- *Identify barriers associated with confidentiality requirements.*

Members

Tony Barker, Indiana Office of Technology; **Sirrilla Blackmon**, Division of Mental Health & Addiction; **Michael Commons**, Division of State Court Administration; **Mary DePrez**, Indiana Supreme Court, Office of Judicial Administration; **Matthew Hagenbush**, Indiana Judicial Center/State Court Administration; **Jeff Hudnall**, Indiana Network of Knowledge; **Devon McDonald**, Indiana Criminal Justice Institute; **Kevin Moore**, Division of Mental Health & Addiction; **David Murtaugh**, Indiana Criminal Justice Institute; **Deward Neely**, Indiana Office of Technology; **Adam Novotney/Leah Hemze-Mills**, Department of Child Services; **Sarah Schelle**, Department of Correction; **Barbara Seitz de Martinez**, Indiana Prevention Resource Center; **Cynthia Smith**, Department of Child Services; **Susan Smith**, Casey Family Programs; **Lisa Thompson**, Indiana Supreme Court, Office of Judicial Administration; **Doris Tolliver**, Department of Child Services; **Joshua Towns**, Department of Education; **Don Travis**, Department of Child Services; **Tamara Weaver**, Office of the Attorney General.

Meetings

The Task Force met on May 6, August 12, and October 20, 2015, and on January 19 and April 14, 2016.

Accomplishments of Past Year

1. Developed and distributed a survey of system professionals on their information sharing practices.
2. Determined the need for an information-sharing guide to make the relevant laws and policies accessible to all stakeholders. Conducted research to draft the guide's content and received feedback from the Division of Mental Health and Addiction, DCS, and the Departments of Correction, Health, and Education.
3. Identified 12 juvenile justice data initiatives.
4. Assisted members of the Substance Abuse & Child Safety Task Force with their requests for data.

Current Action Plan

1. Create a platform to enable information sharing when needed and appropriate.
2. Complete and distribute Information-Sharing Guide.
3. Explore practical ways to implement the recommendations that arose from the information-sharing survey, including: 1) whether a universal consent form would be practical and legal; 2) the feasibility of creating state-level information-sharing MOUs between agencies; 3) A training module for the agencies on the MOUs; and 4) training on information-sharing laws for Commission member agencies.
4. Collaborate with stakeholders to explore the development of a comprehensive justice system platform. Much of the infrastructure already exists through the Court's INCite applications, but connecting to other entities whose data does not reside in INCite needs to be explored. For example, all juvenile detention stays are currently tracked in two systems, but these are not linked to the courts' systems.
5. Continue to work with INK (Indiana Network of Knowledge) and MPH (Management & Performance Hub) to develop a way to track and evaluate educational outcomes for system-involved youth.

6. Continue collaboration with the State Department of Health and the IU School of Medicine to learn how we can support their efforts to address the state's shortage of health professionals.
7. Consider partnering with the Professional Licensing Agency to revisit the mapping project and gather updated information on licensed substance abuse and mental health counselors for youth.

Timeline for Achieving Stated Goals

- Completion of the Information-Sharing Guide is variable and heavily dependent on the degree of timely cooperation from the stakeholder agencies. The white paper portion is expected to be completed by June 30, 2016. The Guide will then be sent the Attorney General for approval.
- By August 15, 2016, if funding is obtained, we will begin development of the application/website for the Guide. This process should take six to twelve months.
- The timeline for training on the Guide is heavily dependent on funding for the creation of materials and modules; and will be ongoing throughout 2016-2017.
- Work on all remaining goals will continue in 2016-2017.

Recommendations for the Commission

1. Pull data from all detention centers into the INcite application so that the detention center data is linked to the juvenile as he/she proceeds through the justice system.
2. Define policy and research questions the CISC wants answered through data sharing and mapping.

Anticipated Next Steps

1. Continue work on Information-Sharing Guide.
2. Test the Guide in the dual-system youth pilot counties.
3. Explore practical ways to implement the recommendations that arose from the information-sharing survey, including: whether a universal consent form would be practical and legal; the feasibility of creating state-level information-sharing MOUs between agencies; a training module for the agencies on the MOUs; and training on information-sharing laws for Commission member agencies.
4. Collaborate with stakeholders to explore the development of a comprehensive justice system platform.
5. Continue to work with INK (Indiana Network of Knowledge) and MPH (Management & Performance Hub) to develop a way to track and evaluate educational outcomes for system-involved youth.
6. Continue collaborating with the State Department of Health and the IU School of Medicine to learn how we can support their efforts to address the state's shortage of health professionals.
7. Partner with the Professional Licensing Agency to revisit the mapping project and gather updated information on licensed substance abuse and mental health counselors for youth.

Educational Outcomes Task Force

Dr. Susan Lockwood, Chair, Director of Juvenile Education, Indiana Department of Correction
Executive Committee Liaison-Danielle McGrath, Office of the Governor

[Educational Outcomes Task Force Webpage](#)

<http://www.in.gov/children/2364.htm>

Priorities

- Increase school stability and decrease absenteeism (truancy);
- Improve transitions for youth from DOC and DCS to other agencies and to the community, including reenrollment into school;
- Increase alternatives for schools regarding youth who would otherwise be suspended or expelled; and
- Work with other task forces on Substance Abuse Education and Treatment

Members

Melissa Ambre, Indiana Department of Education; **Dr. J. T. Coopman**, Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents; **Leslie Crist**, Indiana Department of Workforce Development; **Cathy Danyluk**, Indiana Department of Education; **Leslie Dunn**, Indiana Judicial Center/State Court Administration; **Laurie Elliott**, Youth L.A.W. Team of Indiana; **Margaret Gant**, Indiana Department of Child Services; **Hon. Nancy Gettinger**, LaPorte Superior Court No. 4; **Reba James**, Indiana Department of Child Services; **Rebecca Kubacki**, former State Representative; **Susan Lightfoot**, Henry County Probation; **Dr. Terri Miller**, Systems of Care; **Dr. Theresa Ochoa**, Indiana University; **Lenee Reedus-Carson**, Indiana Department of Education; **Representative Gail Riecken**, District 77; **Paul Runyan**, Hoosier Academy; **Dr. Anita Silverman**, Transitions Academy; **Julie Smart**, Indiana Department of Education; **Christopher Stilwell**, Tri Junior-Senior High School; **Kellie Whitcomb**, Indiana Department of Correction.

Meetings

The Task Force met on July 9, September 11, and November 6, 2015 and January 8, March 4, and May 6, 2016.

Accomplishments of Past Year

1. Identified three promising initiatives including the Youth Assistance Program, Systems of Care (Department of Mental Health and Addiction), and the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative.
2. As a result of a federal juvenile reentry planning grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), a comprehensive action plan was developed to improve youth reentry into their communities and schools.

3. A subsequent federal planning grant was received from OJJDP relevant to youth supervision and aftercare. This planning project is still underway and will lead to further action to improve youth reentry into their communities and schools.
4. Juvenile Detention Standards, specific to the provision of education services to youth, were presented to public school superintendents at their Fall 2015 District Meetings.
5. The Indiana Department of Correction/Division of Youth Services (IDOC/DYS) is partnering with the Youth L.A.W. Team to pilot the use of Gradpoint, an on-line curriculum, in several county detention centers, using licensed teachers to provide oversight to the participating students.
6. A “Summit on Discipline” was held in October 2015. A report from the summit will be available in Summer 2016.
7. The Sub-Committee on School Discipline and Climate met regularly.
8. The Cross-Task Force work with the Substance Abuse and Child Safety Task Force officially began in March 2016.

Current Action Plan

1. IDOC/DYS leadership will meet with technical assistance providers from the Council of State Government to plan a third Reentry Summit to be held before August 2016. The Summit will be facilitated by Dr. Roger Jarjoura from the American Institute of Research (AIR) and others contracted through AIR.
2. Create a subcommittee to study the California model of Juvenile Court Schools (<http://www.socratek.com/StateLaws.aspx?id=824858&title=Educationnode&showall=true>) and make recommendations to the Commission regarding its applicability in Indiana.
3. Create a subcommittee to review Indiana’s school accountability law and graduation data reported to the Indiana Department of Education, including data specific to “mobility” and “home schooling”. The subcommittee will also determine ways for the Indiana Department of Education, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, the Indiana Department of Correction and the Indiana Department of Child Services to work collaboratively to connect youth with appropriate education and career pathways that lead to successful completion of high school equivalency, job certification, and sustainable employment.
4. Continue the work of the subcommittee on School Discipline and Climate and the Cross Task Force assignment with the Substance Abuse and Child Safety Task Force, as outlined in their individual reports.
5. Review current membership of the Education Outcomes Task Force and determine the need to make changes or additions.

Timeline for Achieving Stated Goals

- Reentry Summit will be held by August 2016, with an updated action plan to be presented to the Education Outcomes Task Force by September 2016.
- Sub-Committee on Juvenile Court Schools will be established in May 2016 with a report to the Education Outcomes Task Force by March 2017.

- Sub-Committee on School Accountability and Agency Collaboration will be established in May 2016 with a report to the Education Outcomes Task Force by March 2017.
- Sub-Committee on School Discipline and Climate will report to the Education Outcomes Task Force at each of its 2016-2017 meetings, and any recommendations from the Sub-Committee will be forwarded to the Commission.
- Task Force members working with the Substance Abuse and Child Safety Task Force will report to the Education Outcomes Task Force at each of its 2016-2017 meetings, and any recommendations will be forwarded to the Commission.
- Education Outcomes Task Force membership for 2016-2017 will be established by July 2016.

Recommendations for the Commission

1. Endorse the establishment of Jobs for America’s Graduates (JAG) programs in all public high schools in the State of Indiana.

Anticipated Next Steps

Approach the Governor’s Office and the Department of Workforce Development with Commission endorsement of the need for JAG programming in every public high school in Indiana.

Infant Mortality and Child Health Task Force

Sam Criss, Co-Chair, Deputy Director Services and Outcomes, Department of Child Services
Dr. Jennifer Walthall, Co-Chair, Deputy State Health Commissioner, Indiana Department of Health
 Executive Committee Liaison – Danielle McGrath, Office of the Governor

[Infant Mortality and Child Health Webpage](http://www.in.gov/children/2343.htm)

<http://www.in.gov/children/2343.htm>

Members

Anne Alley, Indiana State Department of Health; **Sirilla Blackmon**, Family and Social Services Administration, Division of Mental Health and Addiction; **Jolene Bracale**, Indiana Department of Education; **Dr. Ted Danielson**, Indiana State Department of Health; **Morella Dominguez**, Indiana Minority Health Coalition; **Charles Ford**, Indianapolis EMS; **Spencer Grover**, Indiana Hospital Association; **Andrea Hern**, Family and Social Services Administration, Division of Mental Health and Addiction; **Kristen Kelley**, Attorney General's Office; **Kelly Moore**, Department of Child Services; **Jeena Siela**, March of Dimes; **Gilbert Smith**, Department of Child Services; **Greg Wilson, M.D.**, IUPUI.

Meetings

February 1, and May 16, 2016

Accomplishments of Past Year

1. Neonatal Incubator/Baby Box. A literature review was completed. The findings were presented to the CISC. The Task Force recommended a robust statewide promotion of the Safe Haven Law.
2. Youth Suicide. A multidisciplinary work group made up of members of several Task Forces convened to discuss youth suicide. The Statewide Suicide Prevention Plan was reviewed and discussed. An update was presented to the CISC.

Current Action Plan

1. The Task Force will focus on the use and availability of mental health services for children in Indiana.
2. The Task Force will review policy barriers, best practice models, and child health gaps.

Timeline for Achieving Stated Goals

Ongoing in 2016

Substance Abuse and Child Safety Task Force

Senator Randall Head, *Chair*

Executive Committee Liaison – Sen. Travis Holdman

[Substance Abuse and Child Safety Webpage](http://www.in.gov/children/2358.htm)

<http://www.in.gov/children/2358.htm>

Priorities

- Identify gaps in the array of substance abuse services, especially in rural areas;
- Increase the number of mental health and substance abuse service providers trained in evidence-based practices, trauma-informed care, addiction issues, and suicide prevention;
- Increase access to mental health and substance abuse services, regardless of income or ability to pay, and identify barriers to receipt of Medicaid;
- Increase access to mental health services for youth in the juvenile justice system;
- Increase access to substance abuse services for youth in the juvenile justice system;
- Address geographic disparities in treatment resources;
- Address teen prescription drug abuse; and
- Assess and address gaps in service array and access, with particular emphasis on remedying geographic disparities.

Members

Parri Black, Youth First, Inc.; **Sirrilla Blackmon**, Family and Social Services Administration, Division of Mental Health and Addiction; **Cathy J. Boggs**, Community Health Network; **Suzanne F. Clifford**, Community Health Network; **Sam Criss**, Department of Child Services; **C.J. Davis**, Four County Counseling Center; **Cathleen Graham**, Indiana Association of Resources and Child Advocacy; **Carey Haley Wong**, Child Advocates; **Lt. Kevin Hobson**, Indiana State Police; **Katie Hokanson**, Indiana State Department of Health; **Mindi Goodpaster**, Marion County Commission on Youth; **Marc D. Kniola**, Indiana Department of Correction; **Suzanne O'Malley**, Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council.

Meetings

The Task Force met on May 12, July 17, September 2, and November 10, 2015, and January 14, and April 12, 2016.

Accomplishments of Past Year

1. Formulated a statewide youth suicide prevention plan.
2. Found three major issues with the implementation of telemedicine: 1) The Indiana Administrative Code (IAC) requires a face-to-face physical before telemedicine can begin; 2) IAC requires an initial face-to-face contact before a doctor can prescribe medicine; and 3) there are no real parameters for community based services. Barrier number 2 was to a degree eliminated by passage of HEA 1263 (2016).
3. Explored expansion of Prescription Drug Drop Boxes and the Yellow Jugs Program.
4. Presentation by the Fulton County Pseudoephedrine Action Committee led to the creation and passage of SEA 80. SEA 80 makes it more difficult for meth cooks to obtain pseudoephedrine.
5. Based on Task Force inquiry, Indiana colleges are now working with the Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC). An affiliation agreement between Indiana University and IDOC was completed summer 2015. The hope is that this will create a pipeline of MSW students for more hiring and retention at IDOC.
6. Established the Joint Committee on Substance Abuse Education and Services.
7. Subcommittee has partnered with Healthier Morgan County to determine county specific youth drug use risk factors. A survey will be administered to jail inmates which will ask them about specific reasons as to why they use drugs. By May 2016 the subcommittee hopes to have the questions finished.

Current Action Plan

1. Continue exploring how the Task Force can help in expanding access to telemedicine for substance abuse treatment for adolescents.
2. Identify legislative proposals to address youth suicide based on the suicide prevention plan.
3. Look at data maps to determine gaps in the array of substance abuse services especially in rural areas.

4. Look at how Indiana can increase the number of mental health and substance abuse service providers. License reciprocity must be addressed.
5. Continue working with Healthier Morgan County to identify risk factors for children who use drugs

Timeline for Achieving Stated Goals

- May 1, 2017

Recommendations for the Commission

1. Expand and market school-based prevention programs to community leaders and county courts

Anticipated Next Steps

1. Address barriers to receipt of Medicaid.
2. Identify gaps in service array and access with particular emphasis on remedying geographical disparities. Look at school based health centers.
3. Create greater buy-in for the Indiana Youth Survey.
4. Communicate with the Attorney General's Office about expanding the Prescription Drug Dropbox Program or Yellow Jugs Program.